

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2797
INFO DSAA WASHINGTON
DA WASHINGTON
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USDAO NDJAMENA CHAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 YAOUNDE 3440

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, CM
SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR 1979:
MILITARY EQUIPMENT

REF: (A) STATE 133136, (B) YAOUNDE 3005

1. SUMMARY. PRESENT TELEGRAM TRANSMITS CAMEROONIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS BY PRIORITY LISTING PROJECTED THROUGH FY 1981 AND CONSTITUTES A RESPONSE PARA D REFTEL A. GURC PRESENTLY HAS VERY LITTLE MONEY, PARTICULARLY FOR PURCHASE MILITARY EQUIPMENT. OTHER PARTS OF ASSESSMENT ARE ANSWERED BY SEPTELS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS LIST OF CAMEROONIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEEDS IN PRIORITY ORDER AS DEVELOPED IN CONVERSATIONS WITH GENERAL SEMENGUE, INSPECTOR GENERAL AND COORDINATOR OF ARMED FORCES, AND APPROVED ON AUGUST 4 BY SADOU DAOUDOU, MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE ARMED FORCES:

A. 8,000 M-16 RIFLES
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B. 2 DIESEL RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLE RECOVERY VEHICLES FOR VC
150'S

C. RADIO EQUIPMENT:

1. 2 M35A2 TRUCKS CONFIGURED AS COMMUNICATIONS VANS
WITH ONE EA 400 WATT AND ONE EA 100 WATT RADIO, INCLUDING
TELEPRINTERS
2. 60 AN/GRC 106 BASE AND VEHICULAR RADIOS

- 3. 120 AN/PRC 70; MANPACK (70), AND VEHICULAR (50) RADIOS
- 4. 300 AN/PRC99: MANPACK (200) AND VEHICULAR (100)
- D. 50-50 CALIBER MACHINE GUNS
- E. 50-106 RECOILLESS RIFLES WITH VEHICULAR MOUNTS
- F. 2 COASTAL SURVEILLANCE RADAR INSTALLATIONS AND TRAINING IN THEIR USE.
- G. 50-M825 JEEPS TO TRANSPORT 106 MM RECOILLESS RIFLES
- H. TRAINING PROGRAM FOR VC-150
- I. 150-M151A2 JEEPS
- J. 30 MACK 6X6 TRUCKS
- K. 5 MACK 6X6 ()43:(34
-). 1 VC-150 DIESEL COMMAND CAR
- M. 1 KIESEL RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLE RECOVERY VEHICLE
- N. 6 VC-150 KIESEL RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES WITH 20 MM ARMAMENT
- O. 6 VC-150 DIESEL RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLES WITH 90 MM ARMAMENT
- P. ROADBUILDING EQUIPMENT (CATERPILLAR 10-D8K BULLDOZERS, 6-621B ROADSCRAPERS, 4-146 ROAD GRADERS, 4-815A COMPACTORS, AND 4-966C SHOVELS).

3. THIS LIST CONSTITUTES THE BASIC EQUIPMENT NEEDS OF CAMEROONIAN ARMY THROUGH 1981. THESE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN REFINED AND MODIFIED BASED ON DEVELOPMENTS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1976, THE APRIL MILITARY MANEUVERS AND SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN GENERAL SEMENGUE, CHARGE AND USDATT FROM NDJAMENA. WE HAVE MADE NO COMMITMENTS WHATSOEVER AND MERELY STATED THAT WE WISHED TO HAVE COMPLETE EQUIPMENT LIST TO

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GIVE WASHINGTON AS FULL A PICTURE AS POSSIBLE AS TO CAMEROONIAN MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RATIONALE. ESPECIALLY STRESSED WAS THE NEW POLICY TO MINIMIZE ARMS TRANSFERS, THE CONCEPT OF ZERO BASED BUDGETING WHICH MAY RESULT IN ACROSS THE BOARD REDUCTIONS FOR FY 79 PROPOSALS AND THE UNKNOWN IMPACT OF OUR AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO FURNISH ARMS AID TO SOMALIA, SUDAN AND CHAD. IN THE ABSENCE OF PRICING INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTTEL B, IW WAS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO COME UP WITH DECISION PACKAGES. HOWEVER, GENERAL SEMENGUE SAID THAT HIS THINKING ON CAMEROONIAN MILITARY NEEDS HAD CHANGED CONSIDERABLE AS RESULT OF APRIL MANUEVEORS WHICH DEMONSTRATED NEED TO STANDARDIZE BASIC INFANTRY WEAPONS, BE ABLE FURNISH TROOP AND MATERIAL SUPPORT, HAVE CAPACITY MOVE DISABLED VC-150'S AND OBTAIN ADEQUATE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.

4. DETAILED JUSTIFICATION OF \$5 MILLION DECISION PACKAGE BASED ON FUNDS EXPECTED BE MADE AVAILABLE OCTOBER 1, 1977, WHICH INCLUDES FIRST THREE ITEMS LISTED PARA 2 ABOVE IS AS FOLLOWS: ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR 20,000 M-16 RIFLES CONSIDERABLY SCALED DOWN. GURC HAS ALREADY MADE COMMITMENT PURCHASE 2,000 M-16 RIFLES COMMERCIALY AS THEY HAVE URGENT REQUIREMENT THIS

EQUIPMENT. REQUEST FOR 8,000 ADDITIONAL M-16'S IS IN LINE WITH PRESENT FORCE LEVELS OF ESTIMATED 13,500 COMBINED MILITARY AND GENDARMARIE (6,000 GENDARMES AND BETWEEN 7 AND 8,000 MILITARY, ACCORDING FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE). PRESENT BASIC INFANTRY WEAPONS MELANGE OF BELGIAN, FRENCH AND ENGLISH RIFLES AND GURC WISHES STANDARDIZE BY EQUIPPING ALL FORCES WITH M-16'S. OLD RIFLES WILL BE USED FOR RESERVISTS, WHO ARE ACTIVATED EACH YEAR TO PARTICIPATE IN MANEUVERS. RECOVERY VEHICLES FOR VC-150'S WERE DISCOVERED AS NECESSARY REQUIREMENT AS RESULT RECENT MILITARY MANEUVERS WHEN ONE VEHICLE TURNED OVER AND ANOTHER HAD BROKEN AXLE. VC-150'S STATIONED DOUALA AND YAOUNDE AND THERE WILL BE ONE RECOC# Y VEHICLE PLACED EACH LOCATION, PRESENT

COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT UNSUITABLE FOR DENSELY FORESTED HILLY
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COUNTRY WHICH COVERS MUCH OF SOUTHERN AND SOUTHEASTERN BORDER AREA. AT ONE POINT DURING MANEUVERS, SEMENGUE OBSERVED, THAT MINISTRY OF ARMED FORCES WAS EVEN OUT OF CONTACT WITH YAOUNDE AIRPORT, A DISTANCE OF LESS THAN FIVE KILOMETERS. SEMENGUE STRESSED NECESSITY HAVE HEAVY DUTY HUMIDITY PROOF EQUIPMENT SUITABLE MEET CAMEROONIAN REQUIREMENTS. COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT LISTED AS ITEM C HIS ASSESSMENT MINIMUM NECESSARY TO STANDARDIZE ON US EQUIPMENT TO BASIC EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENT SHOULD BE ADDED 10-15 PER CENT SPARES.

5. DETAILED JUSTIFICATION OF \$5 MILLION DECISION PACKAGE PROPOSED FOR FY 79 INCLUDES ITEMS D THROUGH H OF PARA 2 ABOVE (LACKING PRICING INFO IT IS DIFFICULT TO KNOW EXACT PRICE OF ITEMS INVOLVED) PLUS ANY REMAINDER OF ITEM C RADIO EQUIPMENT. ITEMS D AND E CONTINUE CAMEROONIAN ARMY STANDARDIZATION

NOTE BY OC/T: AS RECEIVED.

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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INFO DSAA WASHINGTON

DA WASHDC

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USDAO NDJAMENA CHAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 YAOUNDE 3440

PROGRAM. THEY ALREADY HAVE SOME 50 CSTIBER MACHINE GUNS AND 106 RECOILESS RIFLES AND REQUESTED MATERIAL WILL COMPLETE ACQUISITION PROGRAM. NEXT PRIORITY ARE COASTAL SURVEILLANCE RADAR INSTALLATIONS WHICH ARE TO BE PLACED NEAR KRIBI AND VICTORIA. KRIBI INSTALLATION WILL MONITOR SHIP TRAFFIC FROM THE SOUTH AND NORTH TO MACIAS NGUEMA BIYOGUE ISLAND (EX FERNANDO PO) WHILE VICTORIA INSTALLATION WOULD MONITOR TRAFFIC FROM MACIAS NGUEME BIYOGO ISLAND TO CALABAR ESTUARY. CAMEROON PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS BE IN POSITION IDENTIFY ANY POTENTIAL THREAT TO OIL PRODUCTION PLATFORMS AND REFINERY. THEY ALSO CONCERNED WITH SOVIET SHIP ACTIVITY AROUND MACIAS VICTORIA NGUEME BIYOGO ISLAND, WHERE SOVIETS MAINTAIN REPAIR AND RESUPPLY FACILITY AT LUBA. GURC PRESENTLY HAS NO SHIP SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY AND HE OF OPINION THAT THIS DEFICIENCY SHOULD BE REMEDIED ASAP, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT FIRST OIL PRODUCTION PLATFORM EXPECTED BECOME OPERATIONAL WITHIN SIX NMNTHS AND CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN ON OIL REFINERY WITHIN NEXT YEAR. HE IDENTIFIED SPECIFICALLY THREAT TO OIL INSTALLATIONS WHICH LOCATED INEXPOSED POSITION FACING BOTH NIGERIA AND MACIAS NGUEMA BIYOGO ISLAND AND UNPROTECTED WOURI ESTUARY (ENTRY
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TO PRINCIPAL PORT AND INDUSTRIAL CENTER OF DOUALA/BONABERI). SEMENGUE REQUESTED A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THIS EQUIPMENT. PRIORITY NUMBER G IS JEEPS TO TRANSPORT 106 RECIOLLESS RIFLES. SEMENGUE PLACES THIS AT LOWER PRIORITY THAN OTHER ITEMS SINCE, AS TEMPORARY MEASURE, ARMY COULD USE EXISTING TRANSPORT FOR 106'S, BUT THIS WOULD SERIOUSLY HANDICAP TROOP MOBILITY IF PERMITTED CONTINUE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME. IDEALLY GURC WOULD LIKE TO HAVE M825 JEEPS AT SAME TIME AS 106'S. FINAL ITEM IN FY 79 DECISION PACKAGE IS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR VC-150 VEHICLES. CADILLAC GAGE REPRESENTATIVE RECENTLY MADE OFFER OF \$410,000 IN COUNTRY TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH WOULD INVOLVE TWO MAN-YEARS TO ESTABLISH LOCAL SUPPORT SCHOOL FOR VC-150 TRAINING. PROGRAM PROVIDES FOR TRAINING FIFTY CAMEROONIANS ALL ELEMENTS VC-150 MAINTENANCE AND IDENTIFICATION AND TRAINING OF FIFTEEN INSTRUCTORS. SEMENGUE ACCEPTS PROGRAM IN PRINCIPLE. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS COMPLETES

SECOND POSSIBLE \$5 MILLION OFFER FOR FMS FINANCING. IF DECISION PACKAGE CUT TO LESS THAN \$5 MILLION, THEN ITEMS SHOULD BE DROPPED IN REVERSE ORDEG; THAT IS FIRST TRAINING PROGRAM AND SECOND JEEPS, EACH OF WHICH WOULD REPRESENT APPROXIMATE 10 PERCENT REDUCTION PROGRAM. HOWEVER, TO MEET CURRENT CAMEROONIAN PRIORITIES, ENTIRE PROGRAM CONSIDERED NECESSARY.

6. ITEMS I THROUGH P RREPRESENT PROJECTION CAMEROONIAN ARMY EQUIPMENT NEEDS TO 1981, ACCORDING PRESENT THINKING GENERAL SEMENGUE. ITEMS I THROUGH J ARE MINIMUM LEVEL CONSIDERED NECESSARY IN ORDER HAVE ADEQUATE TRANSPORT FOR MENHHND MATERIAL. ITEMS M THROUGH O REPRESENT MINIMUM ARMOR REQUIRED WHEN GURC ACTIVATIES ADDITIONAL ARMY BATTALION IN NORTH (WHICH PRESENTLY HAS ONLY GENDARMERIE) AND LAST ITEM OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT IS CONSTANT NEED IN VIEW OF ARMY ENGINEER ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS THROUGH ROAD-BUILDING PROGRAM.

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7. SINCE GURC PLACES HIGHEST PRIORITY ON UTILIZING SCARCE FUNDS FOR DEVELOPMENT, CHANCES OF ARMY BEING ABLE MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIAL COMMERCIAL PURCHASE, EXCEPT TO OVERCOME VERY HIGHEST PRIORITY INADEQUACIES (I.E. PURCHASE OF TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT AND FIRST TANCHES OF VC-150'S, M-16'S AND VEHICLES), REMAIN SLIGHT. THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT FMS FINANCING BE PROVIDED TO ENABLE THE GURC TO ACQUIRE THIS EQUIPMENT.

8. WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION COASTAL SURVEILLANCE RADAR, ALL EQUIPMENT CHOSEN FOR STANDARDIZATION IS AMERICAN IN ORIGIN AND HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY GURC ON BASIS OF DETERMINATION TO STANDARDIZE ON WHAT IS CONSIDERED TO BE BEST AVAILABLE. AS FAR AS IS KNOWN, THERE IS NO COMPARABLE EQUIPMENT OF FOREIGN MANUFACTURE. IN ALL CASES US INTERESTS ARE SERVED IN SUPPLYING THESE ITEMS (SEE SEPTTEL ON US INTERESTS) AND, IN ANY CASE, STANDARDIZATION PROGRAM HAS ALREADY BEGUN WITH COMMERCIAL PURCHASES. TO SUBSTITUTE FOREIGN EQUIPMENT WOULD RESULT INCREASED COSTS FOR WHAT GURC JUDGES TO BE EQUIPMENT INFERIOR TO THAT MANUFACTURED IN US.

9. THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ARMED FORCES EMPHASIZED THE DESIRE OF CAMEROON TO SETTLE ALL MATTERS WITH NEIGHBORS PEACEFULLY. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF INSTABILITY OF SURROUNDING COUNTRIES AND POTENTIAL THREAT POSED BY WHAT IS PERCEIVED AS INCREASED SOVIET-CUBAN EFFORTS TO PENETRATE AREA AND POSSIBLE EFFORTS UNDERMINE STABLE GOVERNMENTS, THE GURC HAS DETERMINED THAT IT MUST HAVE THE MINIMUM EQUIPMENT NECESSARY IN ORDER OFFER CREDIBLE DETERRANT. THE MINISTRY OF ARMED FORCES AND THE PRESIDENCY HAVE EXAMINED ALTERNATIVEFAAND COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THESE ARE LEAST COSTLY MILITARILY ACCEPTABLE ITEMS REQUIRED. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE GURC HAS NOT REQUESTED ANY OF THE

MORE SOPHISTICATED OFFENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUCH AS AIRCRAFT OR TANKS AND, IN FACT, HAS REORDERED PRIORITIES TO CONFORM WITH EXPERIENCE GAINED FROM MANEUVERS AND ADDITIONAL YEAR'S REFLECTIONS ON THEIR MINIMUM NEEDS. THE EFFECT OF THIS RETHINKING IS TO PLACE A LOWER PRIORITY ON THE ACQUISITION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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ADDITIONAL VC-150'S, WHICH IS ONE OF THE MORE SOPHISTICATED TYPES OF EQUIPMENT REQUESTED.

10. THE USDATT FROM NDJAMENA, THE RDO, THE POLITICAL OFFICER, THE ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL OFFICER AND THE CHARGE HAVE EXAMINED THIS MESSAGE AND CONCUR IN THE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT LIST CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE BE GIVEN FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION FOR FMS FINANCING. THIS MESSAGE SHOULD BE SHOWN TO AMBASSADOR SMYTHE FOR HER CONCURRANCE.
MITHOEFER

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Message Attributes

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